

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 6, 9-13, 17 and 19 are directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants further note that the previously advanced Restriction Requirement has been maintained, and that the subject matter of Figure 5 has not been addressed in substantive examination to date.

1. Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended the claims to place the application in condition for prompt allowance. The following table reflects the nature of the claim amendments initiated herein.

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Nature of Amendment</u>
1	Amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 5.
2-3	Canceled, pursuant to Restriction Requirement.
4	Amended to depend from independent claim 1.
5	Canceled, consistent with incorporation into independent claim 1.
6	Amended to depend from independent claim 1.
20-70	Canceled, pursuant to Restriction Requirement.
71	New independent claim combining original claims 1, 7 and 9.
72-85	New dependent claims based on claims 4-6, 8 and 10-19, respectively.
86	New independent claim combining original claims 1, 7 and 10.
87-100	New dependent claims based on claims 4-6, 8-9 and 11-19, respectively.

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Nature of Amendment</u>
101	New independent claim combining original claims 1 and 11.
102-116	New dependent claims based on claims 4-10 and 12-19, respectively.
117	New independent claim combining original claims 1 and 17.
118-133	New dependent claims based on claims 4-16 and 18-19, respectively.
134	New independent claim combining original claims 1 and 19.
135-149	New dependent claims based on claims 4-18, respectively.

As noted in the Office Action, each of claims 5, 6, 9-13, 17 and 19 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have placed all allowable subject matter in independent form, and have maintained or introduced dependent claims thereto, based on the initially presented claims in the application. As amended, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are directed to subject matter that has been previously indicated as allowable. Prompt allowance thereof is respectfully requested.


Applicants expressly reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of original independent claim 1, as well as all non-elected subject matter, through one or more continuation and/or divisional applications. Applicants' amendment to independent claim 1, as set forth herein, is made without prejudice and does not represent acquiescence in the Examiner's rejection thereof, but is merely undertaken to ensure prompt issuance of the present application. To the contrary, Applicants respectfully

disagree with the Examiner's art-based rejection, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action.

If the examiner believes that prosecution of this application may be advanced through a telephone discussion with applicant's counsel, he/she is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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